

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 NIC-01 ACDA-19 AEC-11 SAJ-01 NEA-10 RSR-01

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R 121542Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 332

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR UR

SUBJ: BREZHNEV GETS THE LENIN PEACE PRIZE

1. SUMMARY. AT NATIONALLY TELEVISED CEREMONY IN KREMLIN EVENING
JULY 11, GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV RECEIVED LENIN PEACE PRIZE,
IN PRESENCE OF PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP, PARTY FAITHFUL,
AND FOREIGN DIGNITARIES. SPEAKERS, WHO INCLUDED VISITING NORTH
VIETNAM LEADER LE DUAN, PAID HOMAGE TO PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF
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BREZHNEV IN SEARCH FOR LASTING WORLD PEACE. IN RELATIVELY BRIEF

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH, BREZHNEV PROVIDED SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLE OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY AND STRESSED ITS COLLECTIVE NATURE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN TWO-HOUR CEREMONY IN GRAND KREMLIN PALACE JULY 11, BREZHNEV RECEIVED LENIN PEACE PRIZE WHICH HAD BEEN AWARDED TO HIM APRIL 19 BY DECREE OF ORGANIZING COMMITTEE. VIRTUALLY ALL MOSCOW-BASED MEMBERS OF LEADERSHIP (ONLY POLYANSKIY AND KIRILENKO, WHO IS IN LEBANON, WERE MISSING) ATTENDED CEREMONY WHICH WAS BROADCAST BY INTERVISION FOR DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN AUDIENCES. CURRENT MOSCOW PREPARATIONS FOR OCTOBER WORLD CONGRESS OF PEACE FORCES MADE IT EASIER FOR SOVIETS TO FIELD A TEAM OF FOREIGN PRAISEMONGERS WHICH INCLUDED (IN ADDITION TO LE DUAN) A BULGARIAN (GEORGI TRAIKOV), AND INDIAN, AN ITALIAN, A FINN, AND AN IRAQI. LE DUAN'S CONTRIBUTION WAS NOTABLY COOLER THAN THOSE OF OTHER SPEAKERS.

3. SUBSTANTIVELY, SPEECH WAS PROGRAMMATIC STATEMENT OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY LARGELY FOR HOME CONSUMPTION, WITH HEAVY EMPHASIS ON OBVIOUSLY POPULAR PEACE THEME. BREZHNEV'S ASSERTIONS THAT POSTWAR HISTORY HAD TAKEN "PORTENTOUS TURN" AND THAT WORLD WAS ON ROAD "FROM CONFRONTATION TO COOPERATION" WERE HARDLY BALANCED BY A PARAGRAPH CASTIGATING "AGGRESSIVE FORCES" AND "ADVENTURISTS." INDEED, SOME REASSURANCE TO FRIENDS AND ALLIES DIZZIED BY PACE OF DETENTE MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED BY A LISTING OF FOUR FOREIGN POLICY PRINCIPLES. IT PLACED UNITY WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND UNION WITH NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLERS AHEAD OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WITH CAPITALISTS (STRUGGLE AGAINST AGGRESSION CAME LAST ON THE LIST).

4. BREZHNEV RESTRICTED TREATMENT OF US TO ARMS -RELATED ISSUES, SAYING THAT EVEN IF TWO COUNTRIES HAD LIMITED THEMSELVES TO SIGNING ONLY THE AGREEMENT ON PREVENTING NUCLEAR WAR, THAT WOULD STILL BE A BIG THING. HE EMPHASIZED NEED FOR FURTHER PROGRESS AT CSCE, ON SALT ("LIMITATION AND THEN REDUCTION"), AND IN CCD. WHILE ALLUDING TO MILITARY RELAXATION IN EUROPE, HE OMITTED ANY SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO MFR. (HIS REFERENCE TO NEED FOR "PRACTICAL REALIZATION IN FULL MEASURE" OF ALL AGREEMENTS WITH CAPITALIST COUNTRIES MAY BE USEFUL FOR COPING WITH ANY SOVIET FOOT-DRAGGING ON NEW BILATERAL AGREEMENTS.)

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5. IT MAY BE WORTH NOTING BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT THAT "WE ARE NOW WORKING OUT CONCRETE MEASURES DIRECTED TOWARD THE FURTHER SOLIDARITY OF THE COUNTRIES OF SOCIALISM." FINALLY, NOT SURPRISINGLY FOR HIS UPBEAT THEME, BREZHNEV OMITTED SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO PRC, ALTHOUGH HE DID REFER TO "ADVENTURISTS WHO, IN THE NAME OF THEIR EGOTISTICAL INTERESTS, ARE CAPABLE OF SETTING OFF A NEW MILITARY CONFLAGRATION."

6. IN LINE WITH PERSONAL BUILDUP OF BREZHNEV WHICH HAS BEEN ACCELEARTED SINCE APRIL CC PLENUM, SPOTLIGHT WAS ON BREZHNEV DURING ENTIRE CEREMONY. SPEAKERS PAID TRIBUTE TO "PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION" HE HAS MADE TO PROCESS OF REDUCING WORLD TENSION AND INCLUDED IN TEXTS REFERENCES TO STRONG BREZHNEV CHARACTER TRAITS. PARTICULARLY AT BEGINNING OF CEREMONY, TV FOCUSSED VIRTUALLY ALL ATTENTION ON BREZHNEV TO NEGLECT OF OTHER PARTY LEADERS.

7. BREZHNEV APPEARED RELAXED, BUT SOLEMN, AT CEREMONY. HIS DELIVERY WAS ONE OF BEST WITNESSED BY EMBOFFS WITH ONLY MINIMUM OF HESITATION AND SLURRING. ONE OF MOST INTERESTING ASPECTS OF HIS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH WAS MENTION, AT VERY EARLY POINT, OF COLLECTIVE NATURE OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY. THIS PARTICULAR PORTION OF ADDRESS IS PICKED UP IN PRAVDA FOREIGN POLICY LEADER MORNING JULY 12.
MELENCAMP

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